REPORT FOR 1909.

St. Austell,
January, 1910.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

ST. AUSTELL

Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

Again the duty devolves on me to make an Annual Report, according to the instructions laid down by the Local Government Board, and in so doing I will follow as near as practicable Article 118 (Section 14) of the Local Government Board's order. In compiling a report of this kind you can form only a very limited idea of the Sanitary Work done, and the difficulties one has to encounter.

The work has been carried out in a very efficient manner, and not only has the sanitary condition of the district improved, but also the comfort of the inhabitants has been increased, as houses are constructed now with sufficient air space at the back as well as at the front. It is also compulsory to have a pure supply of drinking water for each dwelling before it is occupied, as our Council very properly contend that pure water is most essential for the health of the inhabitants.

The District is large and scattered, and inhabited chiefly by clay workers, farm labourers, and fishermen, China Clay being the staple industry of the district. Some parts of the district are very high, being about a thousand feet above sea level: the temperature is mild and humid, and during the winter months we get heavy mists and fog, the district lying chiefly between the North and South Channels, and the climate is healthy, although relaxing. The soil is composed chiefly of granite and kellas, and although the district is purely rural, I know of no place where there is such a constant supply of good and pure water, by gravitation. The Council are frequently increasing the supply and obtaining water from fresh sources. The difficulties are great, especially in the clay districts. Could not some provision be made in order that compulsory powers may be obtained to deal with this matter. In portions of the district, where it is almost impossible to obtain pure water by gravitation, the supply is obtained from deep well pumps, and the question occasionally arises whether lead pumps should be used, as the water from granite has a peculiar action on lead: hence our disapproval of lead pumps being used.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet Fever occurred at the commencement of the year in St. Austell Parish, but owing to having early intimation, and taking prompt action, the cases disappeared. In the summer one case was imported from Launceston, but it did not further spread. In November it was again imported from a neighbouring district, and several cases occurred before we were aware of it on account of its mild form, and the infant school at Bugle was closed. I am hoping that the cases are diminishing. Thirty-four cases occurred altogether, one having proved fatal. Thirty-two of the cases were in St. Austell district, and two in Fowey district

DIPHTHERIA & MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Eleven cases were notified, six in St. Austell district, four in Fowey, and one in Grampound, three having proved fatal; two in St. Austell district and one in Fowey, the ages being two under one year and one under five years.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

Four cases occurred: one at St. Austell, one at Fowey, and two at Grampound. There was no fatality.

ERYSIPELAS.

Eight cases, with no fatality. One in St. Austell district, five in Fowey, and two in Grampound: and I am pleased to say that the number of cases is gradually decreasing.

I now append for your information the number of cases notified and the mortality since the Act came into force:

Year.	No. of Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.
1890	54	12	·44
1891	193	16	·56
1892	134	8	·28
1893	200	32	1·1
1894	117	23	·86
1895	112	6	·22
1896	153	8	·28
1897	50	6	·22
1898	121	4	·14
1899	216	10	·36
1900	105	10	·36
1901	130	6	·204
1902	97	5	·16
1903	62	5	·16
1904	38	2	·067
1905	189	9	·307
1906	439	8	·27
1907	139	4	·13
1908	119	3	·101
1909	57	4	·13

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES.

Measles were imported from Plymouth, and were present in the districts for nine months of the year, and in most of the districts it was epidemic. So great was the number of cases that nearly all the Council Schools had to be closed, and in several places the Sunday Schools also. At first the cases were mild, but it appeared almost impossible to isolate them. There were altogether seventeen fatal cases, distributed as follows: in St. Austell district eight, in Fowey district six, and in Grampound district three—Mevagissey district none. The ages were as follows: four under one year, ten between one and five, and three between five and fifteen, giving a Death Rate of ·57.

WHOOPING COUGH.

A few cases occurred in the early part of the year, but there was no fatality: the commencement of the year being mild, the cases rapidly declined.

DIARRHŒA.

This disease was not very prevalent during the year, but a few cases occurred in the summer months, two having proved fatal in very young children.

ENTERITIS & GASTRITIS.

From the former there was one fatality in a young child, and it occurred in Fowey district. From the latter there were five deaths—four in young children and one in an aged person, three occurring in Fowey district, one in Grampound district, and one in Mevagissey district Four cases occurred in the summer months, and two at the commencement of the year.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

Epidemic Influenza has not been so prevalent as in former years, and the cases have been milder; but the after effects have been very severe, chiefly in chest and throat affections and neurotic diseases. Although there was no fatality from influenza itself directly, I am of opinion that a great many of the cases of Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other chest affections were the result of it.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

These do not appear to be decreasing, comparing with the previous year. In 1908, 42 fatal cases occurred, and in last year 48: the greater number of cases occurring between fifteen and forty years of age. The deaths from these diseases in the several districts are about the same as the previous year, the additional six being distributed proportionately in the four districts.

CANCER.

I am sorry to say that this disease is on the increase, there being only twenty cases in the year 1908, whilst during 1909 there were thirty-one, the chief increase being in St Austell and Mevagissey districts.

BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA & PLEURISY.

These shew a slight increase on the previous year, 67 to 62, the chief increase being in Fowey and Grampound districts.

HEART DISEASES.

These also show an increase of 16 over the previous year, the increase being chiefly in aged people, there being an increase in all the districts.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

During the past year a great deal of useful work has been accomplished, and the sanitary conditions of the districts have been improved. In a large area like ours the work is very varied, and as time goes on it gradually increases. The epidemic of measles caused a great deal of extra time and work. The water supply has been improved and extended, and matters relating to sewerage have also had our attention. A great many closets have been erected, and old ones have been repaired ; but our great difficulty has been where two or more families use the same privy : one family is not willing to clean it after the other. A great many nuisances have been abated by oral notices, and where any difficulty occurs in complying with our request, written notices have been served, and in most cases have been obeyed.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the Special Drainage District is not completed, but a great deal of work has been accomplished, it being necessary to raise the water from the shaft by means of pumping. The pumping engines have not yet arrived, and in the meantime the Council retained the engine which was employed for sinking the shaft and driving the level. Another shaft was sunk in the summer, and owing to the scarcity of water the Council gave instructions to lay pipes from the engine at Penwithick to the reservoir at Carclaze, the distance being over one mile. A jack head was fixed to the engine, and the water sent through the said pipes to the reservoir : thus a water famine was averted, which I am afraid would have happened unless your Inspector had taken prompt action and carried out that portion of the work. I may say that he was rendered every assistance by your Committee ; and I hope this scheme will be completed before another summer commences. Since the foregoing has been done, both reservoirs have been connected by four-inch pipes, the distance being about half a mile.

The Stenalees water supply has been extended from Carnsmerry to Netley, about a thousand one-inch pipes being laid; it was also extended from Bugle to Molinnis, about two thousand feet of two-inch and one-inch pipes having been laid. The reservoir at Stenalees has been completed, and during the year the supply has been satisfactory, and no complaints as to quality or quantity have reached us. This no doubt will prove a great boon to the neighbourhood. Already a great number of new houses have been erected there, and others are in course of erection.

The adits at Trenance and Stenalees have been re-timbered where necessary, and the water courses cleaned.

The public pumps at St. Dennis, Pentewan, and Tregorrick have had our attention.

DRAINAGE.

The drainage has been extended and improved in several parts of the district. At Golant the new sewer has been laid at the north of the village and has been extended, and the outfall improved: the said sewer has been properly trapped with 18-inch cast iron traps. To the south of the same village part of the old sewer has been taken up and reconstructed, and it has also been trapped with 18-inch iron traps.

At Bugle New Street a nine-inch sewer is being laid about 600 feet. Several new houses have been erected in this street, which will be connected with this sewer, and I hope this will prove a nucleus for the further drainage of this part of the district.

At Charlestown the drainage is being extended, and the houses are connecting with the main sewer. I have no doubt that later on, as the weather improves, a great number of the houses will be connected. The agent of the Charlestown Estate has promised to connect all the houses in due course. The Committee gave a lot of their time to this matter, and took a great deal of trouble in arranging matters that were left in a very unsatisfactory state. I am pleased to say that the outfall is working in a most satisfactory manner, there being no trouble since it has been laid. As you are aware, it was not an easy work to accomplish, there being several difficulties to contend with. It is now over twelve months since the work was carried out, which I think is sufficient evidence of the thoroughness of the plan adopted

During the past year a great deal of the Council's time has been taken up with the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, and several of the clauses have been adopted and confirmed by the Local Government Board, particularly those relating to sanitary improvements, which will no doubt prove a great benefit to the several districts. A special report was ordered by the Local Government Board on certain of the sections, which was complied with.

Trewoon water supply had also a great deal of attention, a special report having been made to the Local Government Board on that village. From a house to house inspection of the village by your Inspector and myself we found that although several new houses had been erected, we were of opinion that the place was well supplied with deep well pumps, two being public ones, and most of the others the property of the several landlords.

Gorran Haven, a village at the extreme end of the district, has also had our attention, and that of the Committee. The said place is an old fishing village, built in a very primitive fashion, there being about 80 cottages, most of them being old, and almost every foot of land built on. The street is very narrow, and in some parts not more than about six feet wide, and there is scarcely any back to the dwellings. Some of them have a few feet behind, others have no back space or back door : others are built over cellars. Consequently most of the house refuse goes over the cliff, where it remains until a high tide carries it off. You will at once see what a difficult place it is for which to provide privy accommodation. The cliff nuisance is having attention.

There are still some sanitary matters which are under consideration, and I have no doubt in due course they will be dealt with. A supply of water for the village of Roche is still in abeyance, and a supply of water for Churchtown, St. Stephens, has also been under consideration. At the latter place several sources and springs have been visited, but always some difficulty presents itself, and it is useless to think of draining this or any other village until a supply of water is obtained. It is an easy matter to write letters and make complaints, but it is not so easy to acquire what is wanted to carry out the work. The difficulties are never thought of. The Council are, however, anxious at all times to meet such demands, if possible.

An additional supply of water for Fowey has been under consideration Several springs and streams have been visited, and some of them were of no use, the supply going off in the summer months when it was most required. Others could not be had on account of prior rights, and others because of the interference of riparian owners A great deal of your Inspector's time, with the caretaker, has been taken up with the gauging of the said streams, but up to the present no available supply has been found.

At Tywardreath the second depot has been constructed for the benefit of the inhabitants of that portion of the village, the refuse being taken away at regular intervals.

NUISANCES.

Several nuisances have been abated, and we have no difficulty in compelling the occupiers to carry out the work. The cases of overcrowding are becoming much less, only a few coming under our notice during the year. The nuisances have been abated without any difficulty: a few houses have been condemned, some have been demolished, others have been renovated; but owing to the great number of new houses having been erected in the district, there is a great improvement in the sanitary condition of the same. No less than one hundred and fifty-five houses were erected during the past year. The dwellings all contained three bedrooms. Cesspits are being gradually done away with where possible, and privies on the pail system are recommended.

The Piggeries still give us a great deal of trouble, because of their becoming so dirty in a short time after having been cleaned. Several complaints reached us during the year; some of the Piggeries were renovated, some were reconstructed, and others we had to have removed to a more convenient place.

The custom of throwing soapy water on to the highway has also had our attention. It is frequently thrown on to the highway, where it becomes a nuisance. The Council in several instances have employed men to disinfect and clean the drains. I am pleased to say that the inhabitants in a great many instances throw their slops on to their gardens, which is the best way to deal with them where there are no proper drains.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been visited and inspected, and we found a great many of them improved. Some of the Cowsheds are very old, but our difficulty is in draining them as it is not easy in a rural district, there being so many obstacles to overcome. The houses have been regularly whitewashed and cleaned. Where practicable we get the owners to obtain a supply of water for cleansing purposes.

The Council has had a great many other sanitary matters under consideration, and attention has been given to them. There may be a few not completed, owing, as always will be the case, to difficulties arising which cannot be dealt with at once.

The Factories and Workshops have had our attention. They have been visited, and the regulations as to whitewashing, cleansing, and closet accommodation have had our consideration. So far as we can ascertain there are no outworkers in the districts, no notices having been received of any.

The Slaughter Houses have been visited and inspected, and on the whole there is an improvement, and we have seen that the bye-laws have been attended to.

We have no common Lodging Houses in the districts.

At Whitehouse, Fowey, after a great many difficulties and objections as to site, &c., which were gradually overcome, the Urinals and Water Closets were erected and properly drained, which will prove a great boon to that part of the town, it being a landing place for the ferry boats. I feel certain that it will be the means of abating the nuisances and inconveniences that occurred in that neighbourhood. I consider that the work has been efficiently carried out, and I do not think it will be any detriment to the place as was at first anticipated, but will prove a great benefit.

At Par Post Office another difficulty has been overcome, the drainage of the place having been before the Council for several years. About one hundred feet of 18-inch stoneware pipes were laid, and the sanitary condition of this place has been thereby considerably improved. Not only has the place itself been improved, but the surroundings have considerably benefitted by it.

This Report is simply an outline of the work carried out by the Council during the past year; but there are many other sanitary matters which have been before the members, and which received due consideration, and I know that the Council will carry out their duties as heretofore.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

I now append the Birth and Death Rates since I have been your Officer. The Birth Rate has decreased, and the Death Rate has slightly increased. The Mortality in young children has decreased, being the lowest for several years.

Year	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1880	33.9	21·7
1881	32·9	18·7
1882	31·8	15·9
1883	31·8	18·2
1884	33·39	19·6
1885	32·6	18·6
1886	33·8	19·6
1887	29·7	19·5
1888	31·9	17·2
1889	36·6	17·6
1890	31·6	18·8

Year	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1891	32·7	19·4
1892	30·5	15·5
1893	29·8	21·4
1894	28·7	16·7
1895	31·4	18·9
1896	31·8	14·9
1897	31·3	16·7
1898	31·1	13·8
1899	30·6	18·6
1900	29·5	15·9
1901	28·04	14·7
1902	26·5	14·2
1903	25·9	13·2
1904	26·5	14·05
1905	25·3	15·3
1906	26·1	12·3
1907	25·4	13·8
1908	26·1	13·1
1909	24·5	15·03

You will see that the Birth Rate is declining, last year being the lowest for the past thirty years, the average for the past ten years being 26·9.

The Death Rate is not the lowest, but it is slightly below the average for the past ten years, the average being 14·5 against 15·03. This is accounted for by the increase of the Mortality in aged people, and also because of the severe and changeable seasons. The Death rate is gradually decreasing.

The Deaths in young children have considerably declined, 1909 being the lowest as yet recorded, viz. 68, the average for ten years being 90.

I now give you the Table for the several Districts :

ST. AUSTELL.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Under 1 Year
1900	32·6	16·5	3·9
1901	29·4	14·6	3·8
1902	26·2	14·6	3·7
1903	26·5	13·	2·5
1904	28·8	15·1	3·6
1905	28·2	16·5	3·9
1906	28·7	12·7	3·1
1907	28·7	13·6	2·1
1908	30·7	13·6	3·6
1909	28·3	15·02	2·6

FOWEY.

1900	29·1	15·3	2·3
1901	25·1	15·3	2·8
1902	25·9	13·8	3·3
1903	23·9	12·6	1·8
1904	23·7	14·9	2·4
1905	21·06	14·4	1·8
1906	22·7	14·1	2·08
1907	20·9	15·	2·2
1908	19·2	13·5	2·2
1909	19·7	14·3	1·4

GRAMPOUND.

1900	32·4	17·8	4·4
1901	30·5	15·5	3·3
1902	27·7	16·5	2·6
1903	29·5	14·2	3·1

Grampound (Continued).

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Under 1 Year.
1904	29·	13·9	3·8
1905	28·3	14·4	4·9
1906	31·1	12·2	2·1
1907	27·8	14·2	4·1
1908	30·8	13·6	2·8
1909	29·2	17·5	3·3

MEVAGISSEY.

1900	18·7	13·8	1·8
1901	25·5	12·6	·75
1902	25·	10·3	1·7
1903	22·9	13·6	2·
1904	20·9	9·3	1·7
1905	17·9	14·8	3·02
1906	18·9	10·8	1·5
1907	20·4	11·3	1·
1908	18·6	10·3	1·5
1909	15·6	12·6	1·5

From the foregoing you will see that Grampound has the highest Birth Rate, 29·2, and Mevagissey the lowest, 15·6.

The Death Rate has also been the highest in Grampound district, 17·4, whilst Mevagissey has been the lowest, 12·6.

In children under one year the Mortality in Grampound is the highest, 3·3, whilst the lowest is in Fowey District 1·4.

The average Births in the four districts for the past ten years: St. Austell 28·8, Fowey 22·7, Grampound 29·6, and Mevagissey 20·4.

The average Deaths during the same time: St. Austell 14·5, Fowey 14·3, Grampound 14·9, and Mevagissey 11·9.

Children under one year, same period: St. Austell 3·2, Fowey 2·2, Grampound 3·1, and Mevagissey 1·6.

There were only 57 cases notified, with four deaths, whilst for 1908 119 cases were notified, with three deaths, and in 1907 139 were notified, with four deaths.

The several Tables have been filled in and already referred to.

Table I gives the Mortality for the whole district.

Table II gives the Mortality for the separate districts.

Table III gives the number of cases notified in each district.

Table IV gives the Deaths from all causes at all ages, and in the separate districts.

Table V gives the Infant Mortality, four having been filled up for each separate district.

Table VI gives the Factories and Workshops.

Table VII is a special form from the County Council, which has to be filled in each year.

I cannot conclude this Report without thanking the Council and its Officers for the kindness and consideration they have shown, and also for the interest they have taken in the work. Although there were a great many difficulties to contend with, and some of them were not of an agreeable character, with a little forbearance matters have been arranged satisfactorily, and the sanitary work has been efficiently carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM MASON,
M.O.H.

JOHN STEPHENS, ESQ.,
St. Austell.